

Suffixes and Spelling Patterns with Pip the Bookworm

Learning objective: To understand and apply spelling rules for adding the suffixes -ing, -ed, -er, and -est to words of more than one syllable.

Read the story about Pip's library adventure. Look closely at the words in bold. Use the word bank to help you complete the tasks below. Remember to check your spelling when adding suffixes to root words.

Pip the bookworm was **wondering** which book to read next. He **listened** to the soft rustle of pages in the library. Pip felt **happier** than ever surrounded by his collection. He met a friendly **gardener** who was looking for the **shortest** path to the rose bushes. Pip knew that reading was the **happiest** hobby of all. Something exciting was **happening** in the poetry section, so Pip scurried off to see.

Word bank: happier · happiest · happening · listened · gardener · wondering · shorter · shortest

1. Find the root word for 'happier'. What happens to the 'y' when you add the suffix -er? (2 marks)

2. Why does the word 'listened' end in -ed? Explain what this tells us about when the action took place. (2 marks)

3. Look at the word 'happening'. Why is there a double 'p' in the middle of the word? (2 marks)

4. Choose two words from the word bank and write your own sentence for each one. (2 marks)

5. If Pip found a 'long' book, how would you write it as a superlative (the most long)? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of Pip the bookworm inside a giant library, showing the 'shortest' and 'tallest' books he has found.



Extension challenge: Can you think of a word ending in 'y' that does NOT change to 'i' when adding a suffix? Write a sentence using that word to challenge a friend.